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Do you want to avoid the hardship in your life?

I read an article about death in the South Korean army on the Internet that said: “In South Korea, the thousands of soldiers died by various accidents in 2010 even though there was no war”. This is not an inconsiderable number of the dead soldiers, and accidental death one of big reasons why Korean males don’t want to go into the army. Accordingly, most of them delay the date when they have to go into the army. Some of them even evade their military service. Since I also served in the military for 2 years, like most Korean men, I understand this avoidance; however, I felt different about going into the army. During my time in the army, I increased endurance and this period was my turning point in my life. In specific, since one event which happened on June of 2007, perseverance became my habits in my life before I knew it, so I overcame the difficulties in my life. This event is one of my own experiences of military drill in the army. I still don’t erase this memory and it has stayed in my mind. Although army life was dangerous and difficult, joining the army left me the lesson, “*walk, walk, and walk.*”

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In August of 2005, at the age of 22, I entered the military service. I was trained in various fields during two years. At the end of the military drill, on June 27 of 2007, that day which I could not erase, came to me. I, one of 2 platoon members, was supposed to march 60- kilo in full gear, carrying a 25- kilo bag and 2.5 Kilograms K-2 guns. Unfortunately, it rained on that particular day, so the weight of the bag increased. In spite of the worst circumstances, I departed with my comrades for my destination. Before I departed, I had no belief about whether I couldsucceed in this task or not. The lack of my sense of confidence made me be depressed. After 2 hours of marching, I was still walking and walking. Due to this difficult situation, I thought I hated military duty, which was occurred because of Korean War. Moreover, I was quite eager to give up this marching, but I couldn’t. My bag pressed down on my shoulder, and I could not control my steps. At the half point of the course, I took a 10-minute rest. After my break, I *walked*, *walked*, and *walked*. While walking, I had mingled feelings through my mind. One was that this marching had the meaning beyond just walking; it is a process of achieving goals like defending my country and family. I realized that if I steadily did my best on my study, I could achieve what I want. This thought inspired to me to encourage walking. In the end, I completed 60-kilo marching by *walking*, *walking* and *walking*.

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As a result of this training, I gained two benefits to be able to surmount the difficulties in my life. First of all, I became a hard-worker. Unlike now, I always scamp my study, and I didn’t pay attention to my study. Specifically, not only didn’t I attend to the class at the university but even I also didn’t take the test. Only 9 hours of this marching changed me. Since this event, the word “rough,” disappeared from my mind. Whenever I do my study, even if it is unimportant parts, I did my best on my study. When I become lazy, I always recall this memory and think “*Don’t give up, and try to do your best. Like marching.*” Another advantage was that I became self-confident; however, before I joined the army, I was diffident when I did experiment about my major in the laboratory at the college. I was always scared of the failure of result of the experiment before I started experiments, but after I finished joining the army, I increased my sense of confidence. With this in mind, I challenged all experiments regardless of the results, and in the end I defeated the fear of failure. Consequently, experience about marching becomes one of my valuable treasures in my life.

Even though many Korean men can acquire benefits that get over the difficulties in their life, from the army, nowadays many Korean men try to avoid their military duties. In other words, they evade the trouble instead of solving it. At first, I also had a negative idea about going to army for two reasons. First of all, most Korean men think that the time in the army is not valuable. Sometimes, the army does not consider how efficiently tasks completed and how well they are done. Yet, this time is worth from my experience about army. I could look back on my life, and plan my future. Who say that the army is valueless? Next, in digital age, before most Korean males enlist in the army, they have lived a convenient life for about 20 years by doing what they want, such as playing video games, taking travels, or watching movies. On the other hand, there is no freedom in the army. As a daily schedule, all soldiers should learn various skills and do a lot of their tasks every day. Many tasks and training cause them to gain much stress, so in the end some of soldiers unfortunately make a decision to commit suicide. But judging from my own experience, this pain is temporary. If I, like other soldiers, did not overcome these difficulties, we would not become stronger people. Since I defeated hardship, I grow strong mental. Who want to become a weak person by shirking the army?

Military service had great positive effects on my life unlike my expectation. By spending my 2 years into the army, I gained invaluable things: a hard work to achieve my goal and sense of confidence to overcome challenge. Nowadays, I am *walking* and *walking* again for increasing my English ability in my life. Most people go through the difficulties in their life. Some people try to solve their problems while others give up or evade their challenges. If people should choose one side, what do they want to be between cowards or winners?